Practical synthesis of enantiopure benzylamines by catalytic hydrogenation or transfer hydrogenation reactions in isopropanol using a Ru-pybox catalyst

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

General Experimental Procedures. Manipulations with air sensitive compounds were performed under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen or argon either using standard Schlenk techniques or a glove-box. The reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Solvents were dry by standards methods and distilled under nitrogen or argon before use. Imines 4 were prepared as described previously.^{S1} *trans*-[RuCl(μ -Cl)(η^{6} -C₁₀H₁₄)]₂,^{S2} *trans*-[RuCl₂(η^{2} -C₂H₄){(*R*,*R*)-Ph-Complexes trans-[RuCl₂(η^2 -C₂H₄){(S,S)-ⁱPr-pybox}],^{S3, S4} and trans-[RuCl₂(η^2 pybox], S3 $C_{2}H_{4}$ (3aS,3a'S,8aR,8a'R)-indane-pybox],^{S5} as well as ligands (R,R)-Ph-pybox,^{S6} (S,S)-iPr-pybox^{S7} and 3aS,3a'S,8aR,8a'R)-indane-pybox^{S8} were synthesized by reported methods. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1720-XFT spectrometer. The C,H, N analyses were carried out with a LECO CHNS-TruSpec and a Perkin-Elmer 240-B microanalyzers. Electrospray mass spectra (ESI-MS) were recorded on a Bruker Esquire 6000 spectrometer, operating in the positive mode and using dichloromethane/methanol solutions. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker DPX-300, DRX-400, AV-400 or DRX-500 spectrometers. The values of chemical shifts are given in parts per million (ppm) and referenced to TMS or 85 % H₃PO₄ as standards. The values for coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. Assignment of some ¹H NMR spectra was aided by the use of 2D ¹H-¹³C HSQC experiments. HPLC analyses were performed by using a Waters 2690 chromatograph, these analyses were performed at 303 K.

The following atoms labels have been used for the ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectroscopic data of the pybox ligands.



Synthesis of complexes *trans*-[RuCl₂(CNR){(*R*,*R*)-Ph-pybox}] (R = Bn (1k), Cy(1l)). To a solution of the complex *trans*-[RuCl₂(η^2 -C₂H₄){(*R*,*R*)-Ph-pybox}] (0.030 g, 0.05 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) was added an excess of isocyanide (0.15 mmol) and the mixture heated at 55° C in a sealed tube for 3.5 h (1k) or 5 h (1l). Then, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and *n*-hexane (20 mL) was added affording a solid residue. The solvent was decanted and the resulting solid washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 5 mL) and vacuum-dried.

Complex Ik: Color: dark pink. Yield 81 % (0.027 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 7.93$ (m, 3H, H^{3,4,5} C₅H₃N), 7.44–7.25 (m, 13H, Ph), 7.03 (m, 2H, Ph), 5.28 (m, 4H, OCH₂, *CH*Ph), 4.58 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 4.37 (m, 2H, *CH*₂Ph) ppm. ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 166.0$ (s, OCN), 148.7 (s, C^{2,6} C₅H₃N), 137.8 (s, *C*NCH₂), 137.6 (s, *C^{ipso}* Ph), 135.2 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 134.2 (s, *C^{ipso}* Ph), 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 126.3 (6s, Ph), 122.7 (s, C^{3,5} Ph), 78.5 (s, OCH₂), 70.3 (s, *C*HPh), 47.1 (s, *C*H₂Ph) ppm. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v(C≡N) 2128 (vs). ESI-MS: *m/z* = 682.2 [RuCl₂(CNBn)(Ph-pybox) + Na]⁺, 623.3 [RuCl(CNBn)(Ph-pybox)]⁺, 506.2 [RuCl(Ph-pybox)]⁺. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₁H₂₆Cl₂N₄O₂Ru·CH₂Cl₂ (742.98): C 51.70, H 3.80, N, 7.54; found: C, 51.26, H 3.58, N, 7.43.

Complex 11: Color: Purple. Yield 80 % (0.026 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 7.93$ (m, 3H, H^{3,4,5} C₅H₃N), 7.48 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.2 Hz, 4H, Ph), 7.35 (m, 6H, Ph), 5.26 (m, 4H, OCH₂, *CH*Ph), 4.52 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 3.38 (m, 1H, NCH), 1.89 (m, 2H, CH₂ Cy), 1.45 (m, 2H, CH₂ Cy), 1.31 (m, 2H, CH₂ Cy), 1.10 (m, 2H, CH₂ Cy), 1.01 (m, 2H, CH₂ Cy) ppm. ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 166.3 (s, OCN), 148.5 (s, C^{2,6} C₅H₃N), 138.2 (s, C^{*ipso*} Ph), 134.5 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 128.4, 128.3, 127.9 (3*s*, Ph), 122.6 (s, C^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 78.5 (s, OCH₂), 70.2 (s, CHPh), 53.6 (s, NCH), 32.6, 25.1, 24.9, 22.6, 22.5 (5*s* CH₂ Cy) ppm. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v(C=N) 2126 (vs). ESI-MS: *m/z* = 673.2 [RuCl₂(CNCy)(Ph-pybox) + Na]⁺, 615.4 [RuCl(CNCy)(Ph-pybox)]⁺, 506.2 [RuCl(Ph-pybox)]⁺. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₀H₃₀Cl₂N₄O₂Ru·0.5 CH₂Cl₂ (693.03): C 52.86, H 4.51, N 8.08; found: C 53.30, H 4.44, N 7.85.

Synthesis of complexes *trans*-[RuCl₂(L){(R,R)-Ph-pybox}] (L = PPh₂(OMe) (1h), PPh₂(OEt) (1i), PPh(OMe)₂ (1j)). To a solution of complex *trans*-[RuCl₂(η^2 -C₂H₄){(R,R)-Ph-pybox}] (1a) (0.1 g, 0.176 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) the corresponding phosphonite or phosphinite (0.2 mmol) was added and the mixture heated at 130 °C in a sealed tube during 1h 45 min The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure and the solid residue was purified by chromatography over silica gel. Elution with a mixture of dichloromethane/methanol (50:1) gave a purple band from which the corresponding complexes 1h-1j were isolated by solvent removal.

Complex 1h. Color: Purple. Yield 84 % (0.112 g). ¹H NMR (300.13 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 8.00$ (m, 4H, H^{3,5}C₅H₃N, Ph), 7.88 (m, 1H, H⁴C₅H₃N), 7.41-7.20 (m, 12H, Ph), 6.86 (m, 4H, Ph), 6.62 (m, 2H, Ph), 5.06 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 5.01 (m, 2H, CHPh), 4.51 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 2.49 (d, ³*J*(H,P) = 9.3 Hz, 3H, POMe) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 166.6$ (s, OCN), 148.1 (s, C^{2,6}C₅H₃N), 139.4 (s, C^{ipso} Ph), 136.8 (d, *J*(C,P)= 29.4 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.5 (d, *J*(C,P) = 42.4 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.2 (s, C⁴C₅H₃N), 134.0 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 11.1 Hz, PPh), 131.7 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 10.3 Hz, PPh), 130.2, 128.3, 128.1 (3s, Ph), 127.6-127.5 (Ph), 126.6 (d, ³*J*(C,P) = 8.6 Hz, PPh), 123.0 (s, C^{3,5}C₅H₃N), 79.5 (s, OCH₂), 70.0 (s, CHPh), 52.8 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 14.1 Hz, POMe) ppm.

³¹P{¹H} NMR (121.5 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 143.2$ ppm. MS-ESI (*m/z*) = 779.9 [RuCl₂(Ph-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)}+Na]⁺ (24%), 757.0 [RuCl₂(Ph-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)}]⁺ (15%), 722.0 [RuCl(Ph-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)}]⁺ (100%). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₆H₃₂Cl₂N₃O₃PRu (757.61 g/mol): C 57.07, H 4.26, N 5.55; found: C 57.23, H 4.74, N 5.11.

Complex Ii. Color: Purple. Yield 88 % (0.119 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 8.05$ -7.93 (m 5H, H^{3,4,5} C₅H₃N, Ph), 7.45 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.35 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.29-7.16 (m, 8H, Ph), 6.84 (m, 4H, Ph), 6.64 (m, 2H, Ph), 5.04 (m, 4H, C*H*Ph, OCH₂), 4.52 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 3.19 (m, 1H, POCH₂), 2.83 (m, 1H, POCH₂), 0.24 (pt, *J*(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 166.7$ (s, OCN), 148.1 (s, C^{2,6} C₅H₃N), 139.6 (s, C^{ipso} Ph), 137.5 (d, *J*(C,P) = 27.7 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 136.3 (d, *J*(C,P) = 38.6 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.1 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 133.9 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 10.9 Hz, PPh), 131.8 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 9.9 Hz, PPh), 130.0 (s, Ph), 128.2-127.4 (Ph), 126.6 (d, ³*J*(C,P) = 8.2 Hz, PPh), 123.0 (s, C^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 79.8 (s, OCH₂), 69.8 (s, C*H*Ph), 62.3 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 11.8 Hz, POCH₂), 15.5 (s, CH₃) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (121 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta =$ 141.3 ppm. MS-ESI (*m*/*z*) = 794.0 [RuCl₂(Ph-pybox){PPh₂(OEt)}+Na]⁺ (22%), 771.1 [RuCl₂(Ph-pybox){PPh₂(OEt)}]⁺ (37%), 736.0 [RuCl(Ph-pybox){PPh₂(OEt)}]⁺ (100%). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₇H₃₄Cl₂N₃O₃PRu (771.64 g/mol): C 57.59, H 4.44, N 5.45; found: C 57.36, H 4.59, N 5.06.

Complex Ij. Color: Purple. Yield 70 % (0.088 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 8.05$ (m, 1H, H⁴ C₅H₃N), 7.96 (m, 2H, H^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 7.37 (m, 6H, Ph), 7.24 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.12 (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 2H, Ph), 6.87 (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 2H, Ph), 5.10 (m, 4H, OCH₂, *CH*Ph), 4.57 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 3.18 (d, ³*J*(H,P) = 10.0 Hz, 3H, POMe), 3.09 (d, ³*J*(H,P) = 9.6 Hz, 3H, POMe) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 166.4$ (s, OCN), 147.9 (s, C^{2,6} C₅H₃N), 139.8 (s, C^{ipso} Ph), 137.5 (d, *J*(C,P) = 48.1 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.8 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 130.9 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 11.1 Hz, PPh), 128.8, 128.4 (2*s*, Ph), 127.7 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 16.9 Hz, PPh), 127.6 (s, Ph), 126.7 (d, ³*J*(C,P) = 8.6 Hz, PPh), 123.0 (s, C^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 79.6 (s, OCH₂), 70.4 (s, CHPh), 52.6 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 5.0 Hz, POMe), 51.4 (d, ²*J*(C,P) = 11.0 Hz, POMe) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (121 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 172.5 ppm. MS-ESI (*m*/*z*) = 733.9 [RuCl₂(Ph-pybox){PPh(OMe)₂}+Na]⁺ (40%), 710.9 [RuCl₂(Ph-pybox){PPh(OMe)₂}]⁺ (62%), 676.0 [RuCl(Ph-pybox){PPh(OMe)₂}]⁺ (100%). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₁H₃₀Cl₂N₃O₄PRu (711.54 g/mol): C 52.33, H 4.25, N 5.91; found: C 52.16, H 4.58, N 5.69.

Synthesis of complex *trans*-[**RuCl₂(MeCN){(***R***,***R***)-Ph-pybox}] (1m). A mixture of** *trans***-[RuCl₂(\eta^2-C₂H₄){(***R***,***R***)-Ph-pybox}] (0.030 g, 0.05 mmol) and acetonitrile (0.312 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was heated at 55 °C in a sealed tube for 6 h. Then, the solution was concentrated to ca. 2 mL and** *n***-hexane (30 mL) was added affording a dark pink solid. The solvent was decanted and the resulting solid washed with** *n***-hexane (3 x 5 mL) and vacuum-dried. Yield 90 % (0.026 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): \delta = 7.79 (m, 2H, C^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 7.63 (m, 1H, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 7.57 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.39 (m, 6H, Ph), 5.36 (m, 4H, OCH₂, C***H***Ph), 4.64 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 1.79 (br s, 3H, MeCN) ppm. ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): \delta = 167.4 (s, OCN), 151.6 (s, C^{2,6} C₅H₃N), 138.2 (s, MeCN), 137.9 (s, C^{***ipso***} Ph), 129.0, 128.9 (2***s***, Ph), 128.2 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 128.0 (s, Ph), 122.9 (s, C^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 78.4 (s, OCH₂), 69.4 (s, CHPh), 3.1 (s,** *Me***CN) ppm. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): v(C≡N) 2277 (w). ESI-MS:** *m/z* **= 582.0 ([RuCl₂(MeCN)(Ph-pybox)]⁺, 20 %), 506.2 ([RuCl(Ph-pybox)]⁺, 50 %), 470.3 ([Ru(Ph-pybox)]⁺, 100%).**

Synthesis of complexes *trans*-[RuCl₂(L){(*S*,*S*)-ⁱPr-pybox}] (L = PPh₂(OMe) (2h), PPh₂(OEt) (2i), PPh(OMe)₂ (2j)). To a solution of complex *trans*-[RuCl₂(η^2 -C₂H₄){(*S*,*S*)-ⁱPr-pybox}] (2a) (0.1 g, 0.20 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 mL) the corresponding phosphonite or phosphinite (0.2 mmol) was added and the mixture heated under reflux during 1 h 45 min. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure and the solid residue was purified by chromatography over silica gel. Elution with a mixture of dichloromethane/methanol (50:1) gave a dark pink band from which the corresponding complexes **2h-2j** were isolated by solvent removal.

Complex **2h**. Color: Dark pink. Yield 70 % (0.096 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 8.23$ (m, 2H, PPh), 7.89 (m, 3H, H⁴C₅H₃N, PPh), 7.77 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H^{3.5} C₅H₃N), 7.50 (m, 6H, PPh), 4.67 (m, 4H, OCH₂), 3.85 (m, 2H, *CH*ⁱPr), 3.57 (d, ³*J*(H,P) = 10.4 Hz, 3H, POMe), 2.13 (m, 2H, *CHM*e₂), 0.62 (m, 12H, CH*M*e₂) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 164.3$ (s, OCN), 148.0 (s, C^{2.6} C₅H₃N), 137.1 (d, *J*(C,P) = 30.2 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 136.3 (d, *J*(C,P) = 34.7 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.3 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 132.9 (d, ²*J*(C,P)= 10.8 Hz, PPh), 132.1 (d, ²*J*(C,P)= 9.0 Hz, PPh), 130.0, 129.1 (2*s*, PPh), 127.8 (d, ³*J*(C,P) = 8.4 Hz, PPh), 127.5 (d, ³*J*(C,P) = 8.3 Hz, PPh), 122.3 (s, C^{3.5} C₃H₅N), 71.1 (s, OCH₂), 70.7 (s, CHⁱPr), 54.6 (d, ²*J*(C,P)= 12.7 Hz, POMe), 28.0 (s, *C*HMe₂), 18.9, 14.2 (2*s*, *C*HM*e*₂) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (121 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): $\delta = 143.5$ ppm. MS-ESI (*m*/*z*) = 870.2 [RuCl(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)}₂]⁺ (23 %), 712.2 [RuCl₂(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)} + Na]⁺ (15 %), 689.2 [RuCl₂(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)}]⁺ (14%), 654.2 [RuCl(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh₂(OMe)}]⁺ (100%). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₀H₃₆Cl₂N₃O₃PRu (689.58 g/mol): C 52.25, H 5.26, N 6.09; found: C 51.82, H 5.32, N 5.84.

Complex 2i. Color: Dark pink. Yield 75 % (0.105 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 8.25$ (m, 2H, Ph), 7.87 (m, 3H, H⁴ C₅H₃N, Ph), 7.78 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 7.50 (m, 6H, Ph), 4.65 (m, 4H, CH⁴Pr, OCH₂), 3.82 (m, 3H, OCH₂, POCH₂), 3.79 (m, 1H, POCH₂), 2.21 (m, 2H, CHMe₂), 1.31 (pt, *J*(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 0.62 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.4 Hz, 6H, CHMe₂), 0.60 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.2 Hz, 6H, CHMe₂) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 164.3$ (s, OCN), 148.1 (s, C^{2,6})

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C₅H₃N), 137.6 (d, J(C,P) = 30.6 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 136.4 (d, J(C,P) = 34.5 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.2 (s, C⁴C₅H₃N), 132.9 (d, ²J(C,P) = 11.1 Hz, PPh), 132.0 (d, ²J(C,P) = 9.1 Hz, PPh), 129.9, 129.0 (2s, PPh), 127.9 (d, ³J(C,P) = 9.0 Hz, PPh), 127.4 (d, ³J(C,P) = 8.0 Hz, PPh), 122.2 (s, C^{3.5}C₃H₅N), 71.0 (s, CHⁱPr), 70.6 (s, OCH₂), 63.6 (d, ²J(C,P) = 13.1 Hz, POCH₂), 27.8 (s, CHMe₂), 18.8 (s, CHMe₂), 16.4 (d, ³J(C,P) = 7.0 Hz, CH₃), 14.2 (s, CHMe₂) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (121 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): $\delta = 141.2$ ppm. MS-ESI (*m/z*) = 898.2 [RuCl(ⁱPr-Pybox){PPh₂(OEt)}₂]⁺ (26%), 726.2 [RuCl₂(ⁱPr-Pybox){PPh₂(OEt)}+Na]⁺ (21%), 668.3 [RuCl(ⁱPr-Pybox){PPh₂(OEt)}]⁺ (100%). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₁H₃₈Cl₂N₃O₃PRu (703.61 g/mol): C 52.92, H 5.44, N 5.97; found: C 53.02, H 5.52, N 5.51.

Complex **2***j*. Color: Dark pink. Yield 86 % (0.111 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 8.19$ (m, 2H, PPh), 7.94 (t, J(H,H) = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H⁴ C₅H₃N), 7.78 (d, J(H,H) = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H^{3.5} C₅H₃N), 7.50 (m, 3H, PPh), 4.70 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 4.64 (m, 2H, OCH₂), 4.10 (d, ³J(H,P) = 10.4 Hz, 3H, POMe), 3.69 (m, 2H, CHPr), 3.63 (d, ³J(H,P) = 9.6 Hz, 3H, POMe), 2.33 (m, 2H, CHMe₂), 0.71 (d, J(H,H) = 7.2 Hz, 6H, CHMe₂), 0.65 (d, J(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 6H, CHMe₂) ppm. ¹³C {¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): $\delta = 164.3$ (s, OCN), 148.0 (s, C^{2.6} C₅H₃N), 139.2 (d, J(C,P) = 46.3 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.9 (s, C⁴ C₅H₃N), 131.5 (d, ²J(C,P) = 12.2 Hz, PPh), 130.0 (s, PPh), 128.0 (d, ³J(C,P) = 9.8 Hz, PPh), 122.5 (s, C^{3.5} C₃H₅N), 71.0 (s, OCH₂), 70.9 (s, CHⁱPr), 53.2 (br s, POMe), 51.8 (d, ²J(C,P) = 12.2 Hz, POMe), 27.9 (s, CHMe₂), 19.3, 14.6 (2*s*, CHMe₂) ppm. ³¹P {¹H} NMR (121 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): $\delta = 170.1$ ppm. MS-ESI (*m*/*z*) = 666.2 [RuCl₂(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh(OMe)₂}+Na]⁺ (88%), 643.2 [RuCl₂(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh(OMe)₂}]⁺ (29%), 608.2 [RuCl(ⁱPr-pybox){PPh(OMe)₂}]⁺ (100%). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₂₅H₃₄Cl₂N₃O₄PRu (643.51 g/mol): C 46.66, H 5.33, N 6.53; found: C 46.57, H 5.13, N 6.18.

Synthesis of complex trans-[RuCl₂{PPh₂(OEt)}(indane-pybox}] (3i). To a solution of the complex *trans*-[RuCl₂(η^2 -C₂H₄)(indane-pybox)] (0.076 g, 0.128 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added an excess of PPh₂(OEt) (42 µL, 0.192 mmol) and the mixture heated at 55 °C in a sealed tube for 3 h. Once the reaction was completed, the solution was cooled at room temperature and then concetrated to ca. 2 mL. The residue was transferred to a silica gel chromatography column and eluted with a mixture of dichloromethane/methanol (100:1) to give a purple band. The evaporation of the solvents under reduced pressure and posterior addition of n-hexane (20 mL) afforded a purple solid. The solvent was decanted and the solid washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 5 mL) and vacuum-dried. Yield 47 % (0.048 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 8.38 $(t, J(H,H) = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, 2H, CH_{arom}), 8.22 (t, J(H,H) = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, 2H, CH_{arom}), 7.80 (m, 2H, H^4)$ C₅H₃N, CH_{arom}), 7.69 (m, 1H, CH_{arom}), 7.51 (m, 9H, CH_{arom}), 7.23 (m, 3H, H^{3,5} C₅H₃N, CH_{arom}), 7.00 (m, 2H, CH_{arom}), 5.79 (pt, J(H,H) = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CHO), 5.32 (d, J(H,H) =6.0 Hz, 2H, CHN), 3.96 (m, 2H, POCH₂), 3.54 (d, J(H,H) = 18.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 3.45 $(dd, J(H,H) = 18.0 Hz, J(H,H) = 6.0 Hz, 2H, OCH_2), 1.21 (t, J(H,H) = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH_3)$ ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 165.9 (s, OCN), 148.1 (s, C^{2,6} C_5H_3N), 139.1, 138.4 (2s, C^{ipso} indane), 136.6 (d, J(C,P) = 29.9 Hz, C^{ipso} PPh), 135.4 (d, J(C,P) = 33.5 Hz, C^{ipso} Ph), 134.9 (s, $C^4 C_5 H_3 N$), 133.5 (d, ${}^2J(C,P) = 9.8$ Hz, PPh), 133.4 $(d, {}^{2}J(C,P) = 10.6 \text{ Hz}, PPh), 131.5, 131.4, 129.9, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7 (9s)$ CH_{arom}), 127.8 (d, ${}^{2}J(C,P) = 8.7$ Hz, PPh), 127.4 (d, ${}^{3}J(C,P) = 8.5$ Hz, PPh), 126.5 (s, CH_{arom}), 124.1 (s, C^{3,5} C₅H₃N), 122.5 (s, CH_{arom}), 90.1 (s, CHO), 74.5 (CHN), 63.9 (d, ${}^{2}J(C,P) = 14.3 \text{ Hz}, \text{ POCH}_{2}$, 37.3 (s, CH₂), 16.2 (s, CH₃) ppm. ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (121) MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 140.4 (s) ppm. ESI-MS: m/z = 760.2 ([RuCl{PPh₂(OEt)}(indane-pybox)]⁺, 100 %). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₉H₃₄Cl₂N₃O₃PRu (795.66): C 58.87, H 4.31, N 5.28; found: C 59.13, H 4.51, N 5.48.

Synthesis of complex trans-[RuCl₂{PPh(OMe)₂}(indane-pybox)] (3j). To a solution of the complex *trans*-[RuCl₂(η^2 -C₂H₄)(indane-pybox}] (0.090 g, 0.151 mmol) in dichloromethane (25 mL) was added PPh(OMe)₂ (24 µL, 0.151 mmol) and the mixture heated at 55 °C in a sealed tube for 5 h. Once the reaction was completed, the solution was cooled at room temperature and then concentrated to ca. 2 mL. The residue was transferred to a silica gel chromatography column and eluted with a mixture of dichloromethane/methanol (100:1) to give a dark pink band. Then, the solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and *n*-hexane (20 mL) was added affording a dark pink solid. The solvent was decanted and the solid washed with *n*-hexane (3 x 5 mL) and vacuum-dried. Yield 49 % (0.054 g). ¹H NMR (300 MHz CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 8.47 (m, 2H, CH_{arom}), 8.05 (d, J(H,H) = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH_{arom}), 7.82 (m, 2H, CH_{arom}, H⁴ C_5H_3N), 7.68 (d, J(H,H) = 7.8 Hz, 2H, $H^{3,5}$ C_5H_3N), 7.53 (m, 1H, CH_{arom}), 7.48 (m, 2H, CH_{arom}), 7.29-7.21 (m, 5H, CH_{arom}), 5.77 (pt, J(H,H) = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CHO), 5.06 (d, J(H,H) = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CHN), 4.24 (d, ${}^{3}J(H,P) = 10.2$ Hz, 2H, POMe), 3.78 (m, 4H, POMe), $3.55 (d, J(H,H) = 18.0 Hz, 2H, CH_2)$, 3.44 (dd, J(H,H) = 18.0 Hz, J(H,H) = 6.0Hz, 2H, CH₂) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ = 165.9 (s, OCN), 147.9 (s, $C^{2,6} C_5 H_3 N$), 139.2 (s, C^{ipso} indane), 138.4 (d, J(C,P) = 46.7 Hz, $C^{ipso} PPh$), 138.3 (s, C^{ipso} indane), 135.9 (s, $C^4 C_5 H_3 N$), 132.0 (d, ${}^2J(C,P) = 11.2 Hz$, PPh), 130.2, 128.9 (2s, CH_{arom}), 127.7 (d, ${}^{3}J(C,P) = 8.5$ Hz, PPh), 126.9, 124.2 (2s, CH_{arom}), 122.5 (s, $C^{3,5} C_5 H_3 N$), 90.0 (s, CHO), 74.9 (CHN), 54.6 (d, ${}^2J(C,P) = 8.2$ Hz, OMe), 52.1 (d, ${}^{2}J(C,P) = 11.9 \text{ Hz}, \text{ OMe}$, 37.5 (s, CH₂) ppm. ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (121 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): $\delta = 170.5$ (s) ppm. ESI-MS: m/z = 758.1 ([RuCl₂{PPh(OMe)₂}(indanepybox)+Na]⁺, 64 %), 735.2 ([RuCl₂{PPh(OMe)₂}(indane-pybox)]⁺, 19 %), 700.2 ([RuCl{PPh(OMe)₂}(indane-pybox)]⁺, 100 %). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for

C₃₃H₃₀Cl₂N₃O₄PRu·0.5 CH₂Cl₂ (778.05): C 51.72, H 4.02, N 5.40; found: 52.43 C, 4.09 H, 4.95 N.

Representative synthesis of amines 5 by catalytic hydrogenation reactions (procedure A). In a glovebox, a 2 mL vial was charged with imine 4a (0.029 g, 0.15 mmol), 1j (0.001 g, 1.5 µmol), ^tBuOK (50 µL, 0.15 M in PrⁱOH) and PrⁱOH (0.95 mL) and placed in a parallel pressure HEL CAT18 reactor. The reactor was purged three times with H₂, pressurized at 20 bar of H₂ and heated at 60 °C for 24 h. The reactor was then allowed to cool down and slowly depressurized. The solution obtained was evaporated and conversion was determined by ¹H NMR of the resulting residue. This latter was purified by passing through a short pad of silica using a EtOAc/n-hexane (1:4) mixture as eluent. The resulting solution was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue obtained analyzed by chiral HPLC to determine enantiomeric excess as described below. Alternatively, to remove unreacted imine, the residue obtained after the reaction can be dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL), treated with 2 mL of HCl (2 mL, 2M) and the mixture stirred for 20 minutes. NaHCO₃ (satd, 3 mL) was added over the mixture, the organic layer extracted, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC as detailed, racemic mixtures were prepared by a transfer hydrogenation reaction performed with the Shvo catalyst.^{S9} With the exception of 5d, all amines 5 are known compounds.

Representative synthesis of amines 5 using transfer hydrogenation reactions (procedure B). A reaction prepared in the glove-box (nitrogen filled) as described in Procedure A is placed in a tightly closed glass vial (2 mL), brought outside the glovebox and heated at 60 °C for 24 h. Subsequently, and analogous work-up to that described above in procedure A was then followed to isolate the corresponding amine 5.

Determination of enantiomeric excess and configuration of amines 5

Configuration for compounds **5a**, **5e**, **5h**, **5i**, **5j**, **5k**, **5l**, **5n**, and **5o** were determined by comparison of the optical rotation measurements with data reported in the literature. For compounds **5b**, **5d**, **5m** and **5p** were assigned by analogy.

(*S*)-*N*-phenyl-1-phenylethylamine (5a):^{S10} Colorless oil. Yield 87 % (0.026 g, procedure A). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +4.1$ (*c* 1.2, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit. value:^{S10c} $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -4.9$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃, 97 % ee, *R* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): $\delta = 7.38$ (m, 4H, H arom), 7.27 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.13 (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H arom), 6.68 (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.7 Hz, 2H, H arom), 4.52 (brm, 1H, CHCH₃), 4.06 (brs, 1H, NH), 1.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): $\delta = 146.9$ (C_q), 145.0 (C_q), 129.3 (2 CH arom), 128.8 (2 CH arom), 127.1 (CH arom), 126.1 (2 CH arom), 117.9 (CH arom), 113.9 (2 CH arom), 54.1 (CHCH₃), 24.9 (CH₃). HPLC: Chiralcel OJ-H, *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (93:7), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 243.8$ nm, $t_1 = 21.9$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 25.0$ min (*S*).

(*S*)-*N*-phenyl-1-(*p*-fluorophenyl)ethylamine (5b):^{S11} Pale yellow oil. Yield 87 % (0.029 g, procedure B). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +27.6 (c \ 1.1, CHCl_3, 99\% ee)$. Lit. value: ^{S11a} $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -24.8 (c \ 1.00, CHCl_3, 93\% ee, no configuration asigned). ¹H NMR (CDCl_3, 300 MHz): <math>\delta = 7.35 (dd, J(H,H) = 8.5 Hz, J(H,F) = 5.4 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 7.12 (t, J(H,H) = 7.9 Hz, 2H, 2 CH arom), 7.01 (t, J(H,H) = 8.7 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.71 (t, J(H,H) = 7.3 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.55 (d, J(H,H) = 7.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.79 (vbr, NH), 4.48 (q, 1H, J(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, CHCH_3), 1.53 (d, J(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH_3) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl_3, 100 MHz): <math>\delta = 161.9 (d, J(C,F) = 244 Hz, Cq), 146.8 (Cq), 140.7 (Cq), 129.3 (2 CH arom), 127.5 (d, J(C,F) = 8 Hz, 2 CH arom), 118.0 (CH arom), 115.6 (d, J(C,F) = 21 Hz, 2 CH arom), 113.9 (2 CH arom), 53.4 (CHCH_3), 25.1 (CH_3) ppm. HPLC:$

Chiralcel OJ-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 241.4$ nm, $t_1 = 32.1$ min (*S*), $t_2 = 36.8$ min (*R*). Configuration was determined by analogy with that observed in the hydrogenations of **4a**.

N-phenyl-1-(*p*-chlorophenyl)ethylamine (5c):^{S11a} Obtained with a 44 % conversion using procedure A. HPLC: Chiralcel OJ-H, *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (93:7), flow 1.0 mL/min, λ = 241.4 nm, t_1 = 12.6 min, t_2 = 13.8 min.

(*S*)-*N*-phenyl-1-(*m*-methoxyphenyl)ethylamine (5d): Colorless oil. Yield 93 % (0.032 g, procedure B). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +4.5$ (*c* 1.4, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). HRMS (EI): *m/z* 227.1310, $[M]^+$ (exact mass calcd for C₁₅H₁₇NO: 227.1310). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta = 7.27$ (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.12 (dd, *J*(H,H) = 8.5, 7.4 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.99 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.96 (m, 1H, H arom), 6.80 (dd, *J*(H,H) = 8.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.68 (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.3 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.6 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.48 (brm, 1H, CHCH₃), 4.04 (brs, 1H, NH), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.53 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 160.1$ (Cq), 146.7 (2 Cq), 129.8 (2 CH arom), 129.2 (2 CH arom), 118.5 (CH arom), 118.1 (CH arom), 114.1 (CH arom), 112.4 (CH arom), 111.9 (CH arom), 55.3 (OCH₃), 54.4 (CHCH₃), $\lambda = 243.8$ nm, *t*₁ = 10.5 min (*R*), *t*₂ = 12.1 min (*S*). Configuration was determined by analogy with that observed in the hydrogenations of **4a** and **4m**.

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethylamine (5e):^{S11b, S12} Pale yellow oil. Yield 91 % (0.031 g, procedure B). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -1.9$ (*c* 1.3, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit value:^{S12} $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} =$ +1.9 (*c* 1, CHCl₃, 95 % ee, *R* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta = 7.42$ (d, J(H,H) = 7.3 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 7.37 (t, J(H,H) = 7.5 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 7.29 (d, J(H,H) = 5.9 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.75 (d, J(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.53 (d, J(H,H) = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.47 (q, J(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃), 3.84 (brs, 1H, NH), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.55 (d, J(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ = 152.6 (Cq), 144.9 (Cq), 140.7 (Cq), 128.8 (2 CH arom), 127.1 (CH arom), 126.2 (2 CH arom), 115.4 (2 CH arom), 114.9 (2 CH arom), 55.9 (OCH₃), 55.1 (CHCH₃), 24.9 (CHCH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, λ = 243.8 nm, t_1 = 13.0 min (*R*), t_2 = 14.2 min (*S*).

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*o*-methylphenyl)ethylamine (5h):^{S13a} Obtained by a modification of the general procedure A using imine 4h (0.076 g, 0.32 mmol) 1j (0.002 g, 0.003 mmol) and KO⁴Bu (100 µL, 0.15 M in PrⁱOH) and PrⁱOH (0.75 mL) and heating at 70 °C for 24 h. Pale yellow solid. Yield 91 % (0.070 g). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +38.0$ (*c* 2.2, MeOH, 99 % ee). Lit. value: S^{14a} $[\alpha]^{D}_{22} = -33.5$ (*c* 2.2, MeOH, 78 % ee, *R* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta = 7.48$ (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.1 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.17 (m, 3H, 3 H arom), 6.71 (m, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.47 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.64 (q, *J*(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 1H, C*H*CH₃), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 1.51 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C {¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): $\delta = 152.0$ (Cq), 142.9 (Cq), 141.4 (Cq), 134.6 (Cq), 130.6 (CH arom), 126.7 (CH arom), 126.6 (CH arom), 124.7 (CH arom), 114.8 (2 CH arom), 114.4 (2 CH arom), 55.8 (OCH₃), 50.6 (CHCH₃), 23.1 (CHCH₃), 19.0 (Ar-CH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (98:2), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 243.8$ nm, $t_1 = 7.7$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 9.9$ min (*S*).

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*p*-methylphenyl)ethylamine (5i):^{S13} Pale yellow solid. Yield 91 % (0.033 g, procedure B). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -21.4$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit. value: ^{S13c} $[\alpha]^{D}_{22} = +13.0$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃, 99 % ee, *R* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): $\delta = 7.27$ (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 7.15, (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.0 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.72 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.42 (q, *J*(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃), 3.81 (brs, NH; low intensity due to chemical exchange), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.34 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 1.53 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CHC*H*₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 152.5$ (Cq), 141.9 (Cq), 140.8 (Cq), 136.7 (Cq), 129.4 (2CH arom), 126.1 (2 CH arom), 115.5 (2 CH arom), 114.9 (2 CH arom), 55.9 (OCH₃), 54.8 (*C*HCH₃), 24.9 (CH*C*H₃), 21.2 (Ar-CH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 243.8$ nm, $t_1 = 11.3$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 12.8$ min (*S*).

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*o*-fluorophenyl)ethylamine (5j):^{S13a} Pale yellow oil. Yield 92 % (0.034 g, procedure A). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -14.2$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit. value:^{S14a} $[\alpha]^{D}_{22} = +8.4$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃, 84 % ee, *R* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): $\delta = 7.42$ (dt, *J*(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, *J*(H,F) = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.23 (m, 1H, H arom), 7.07 (m, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.73 (m, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.54 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.7 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.79 (q, *J*(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.57 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 160.5$ (d, *J*(C,F) = 245 Hz, Cq), 152.3 (Cq), 140.7 (Cq), 131.7 (d, *J*(C,F) = 13 Hz, Cq), 128.3 (d, *J*(C,F) = 8 Hz, CH arom), 127.3 (d, *J*(C,F) = 5 Hz, CH arom), 124.4 (d, *J*(C,F) = 3 Hz, CH arom), 115.4 (d, *J*(C,F) = 22 Hz, CH arom), 114.8 (4 CH arom), 55.7 (OCH₃), 48.5 (CHCH₃), 23.3 (CHCH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (98:2), flow 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 242.6$ nm, $t_1 = 15.6$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 18.1$ min (*S*).

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethylamine (5k):^{S14} Pale yellow solid. Yield 99 % (0.044 g, procedure B). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +6.6$ (*c* 0.5, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit value:^{S14} $[\alpha]^{D} = +6.5$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃; 92 % ee, *S* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta = 7.59$ (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.1 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 7.50 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.1 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.72 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.45 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.48 (brm, 1H, CHCH₃), 3.83 (brs, 1H, NH), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.52 (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 152.7$ (Cq), 149.3 (Cq), 140.4 (Cq), 129.4 (q, *J*(C,F) = 32 Hz, Cq), 126.6 (2 CH arom), 125.8 (2 CH

arom), 124.4 (q, J(C,F) = 72 Hz, CF₃), 115.3 (2 CH arom), 115.0 (2 CH arom), 55.8 (OCH₃), 54.8 (CHCH₃), 24.9 (CHCH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 241.4$ nm, $t_1 = 32.0$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 42.0$ min (*S*).

(S)-N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-(m-methoxyphenyl)ethylamine (51):^{S10c, S13a, S15} Pale yellow oil. Yield 98 % (0.038 g, procedure B). Alternatively, 4l (1.53 g, 6.00 mmol), 1j (9.2 mg, 0.012 mmol), KO^tBu (6.7 mg, 0.060 mmol) were dissolved in a PrⁱOH-toluene 1:1 mixture (3 mL) and pressurized under 20 bar H₂ at 60 °C for 24 h. After the standard work-up, **51** was obtained as a pale yellow oil (1.42 g, 92 % yield, 98 % ee). $[\alpha]_{20}^{D} = -$ 6.8 (c 0.5, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit value:^{S15} $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +5.5$ (c 1.05, CHCl₃, 72 % ee, R enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta = 7.26$ (t, J(H,H) = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.99 (d, J(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.96 (s, 1H, H arom), 6.79 (dd, J(H,H) = 8.1, 1H, H arom), 6.96 (s, 12.4 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.72 (d, J(H,H) = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.50 (d, J(H,H) = 8.8Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.41 (brm, 1H, CHCH₃), 3.80 (s, 4H, OCH₃ + NH), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.52 (d, J(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 160.0$ (Cq), 152.4 (Cq), 147.1 (Cq), 141.0 (Cq), 129.8 (CH arom), 118.5 (CH arom), 115.2 (2 CH arom), 114.9 (2 CH arom), 112.3 (CH arom), 111.9 (CH arom), 55.8 (OCH₃), 55.3 (OCH₃), 54.9 (CHCH₃), 24.9 (CHCH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H nhexane-ⁱPrOH (97:3), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 243.8$ nm, $t_1 = 12.3$ min (R), $t_2 = 14.2$ min *(S)*.

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-(*m*,*p*-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylamine (5m):^{S13c, S15} White solid. Yield 65 % (0.028 g, procedure B). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -7.3$ (*c* 1.2, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit value:^{S15} $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +8.3$ (*c* 0.98, CHCl₃, 78 % ee, *R* enantiomer), $[\alpha]^{D}_{17} = -16.0$ (*c* 0.72, CHCl₃, 98 % ee).^{S13c 1}H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): $\delta = 6.94$ (s, 1H, H arom), 6.89 (d, *J*(H,H) = 9.1 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.80 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.70 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.35 (q, *J*(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.52 (d, J(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm (NH signal not observed). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 152.8$ (Cq), 149.3 (Cq), 148.1 (Cq), 140.5 (Cq), 137.4 (Cq), 118.2 (CH arom), 115.8 (2 CH arom), 114.8 (2 CH arom), 111.3 (CH arom), 109.4 (CH arom), 56.0 (2 OCH₃), 55.8 (OCH₃), 55.2 (CHCH₃), 24.7 (CHCH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (90:10), flow 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 236.7$ nm, $t_1 = 26.3$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 30.4$ min (*S*). Configuration was determined by analogy with that observed in the hydrogenation of **4i**.

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-2-naphthylethylamine (5n):^{S10c, S13a, S13c} Yellow solid. Yield 80 % (0.033 g, procedure A). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -25.7$ (*c* 0.6, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit. value:^{S13c} $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = -17.5$ (*c* 0.61, CHCl₃, 99 % ee, *S* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): $\delta = 7.84$ (m, 4H, 4 H arom), 7.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.6 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.46 (m, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.71 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.59 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.61 (q, (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃), 4.39 (vbr, NH), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.62 (d, (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 152.8$ (Cq), 142.1 (Cq), 140.2 (Cq), 133.6 (Cq), 132.9 (Cq), 128.6 (CH arom), 128.0 (CH arom), 127.8 (CH arom), 126.2 (CH arom), 125.7 (CH arom), 124.7 (CH arom), 115.9 (2 CH arom), 114.9 (2 CH arom), 55.8 (OCH₃), 55.7 (*C*HCH₃), 24.7 (CH*C*H₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225.0$ nm, $t_1 = 23.2$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 28.3$ min (*S*).

(S)-N-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-naphthylethylamine (50):^{S16} Yellow solid. Yield 73 % (0.030 g, procedure A). $[\alpha]^{D}_{20} = +183.9$ (*c* 1.5, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit. value:^{S16} -158.4 (*c* 0.87, CHCl₃, 84 % ee, *R* enantiomer). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): $\delta = 8.17$ (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.92 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.4 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.76 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.73 (d, *J*(H,H) = 7.1 Hz, 1H, H arom), 7.54 (m, 2H, 2 H arom), 7.44

(t, J(H,H) = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H arom), 6.68 (d, J(H,H) = 9.0 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.52 (d, J(H,H) = 8.7 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 5.26 (q, J(H,H) = 6.5 Hz, 1H, $CHCH_3$), 4.71 (vbr, NH), 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.69 (d, J(H,H) = 6.6 Hz, 3H, $CHCH_3$) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): $\delta = 152.9$ (Cq), 139.8 (Cq), 139.3 (Cq), 134.2 (Cq), 130.9 (Cq), 129.2 (CH arom), 127.7 (CH arom), 126.2 (CH arom), 126.0 (CH arom), 125.6 (CH arom), 122.9 (CH arom), 122.6 (CH arom), 115.8 (2 CH arom), 114.9 (2 CH arom), 55.8 (OCH₃), 51.2 (*C*HCH₃), 23.5 (CH*C*H₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 223.8$ nm, $t_1 = 22.3$ min (*R*), $t_2 = 29.6$ min (*S*).

(*S*)-*N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpropylamine (5p):^{S13b, S17} Colorless oil. Yield 80 % (0.030 g, procedure A). [α]^D₂₀ = -26.5 (*c* 1.4, CHCl₃, 99 % ee). Lit. value:^{S17} [α]^D₂₀ = -20.0 (*c* 2.1, CHCl₃, 92 % ee, no configuration assigned). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 7.37 (m, 4H, 4 H arom), 7.26 (m, 1H, 1 H arom), 6.71 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 6.55 (d, *J*(H,H) = 8.9 Hz, 2H, 2 H arom), 4.59 (vbr, NH), 4.18 (t, (d, *J*(H,H) = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CHCH₂), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 1.88 (m, 2H, CH₂), 0.95 (t, *J*(H,H) = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ = 152.9 (Cq), 142.9 (Cq), 140.1 (Cq), 128.6 (2 CH arom), 127.3 (CH arom), 127.0 (2 CH arom), 116.0 (2 CH arom), 114.8 (2 CH arom), 62.0 (CHCH₂), 55.8 (OCH₃), 31.1 (CH₂), 10.9 (CH₂CH₃) ppm. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 1.0 mL/min, λ = 243.8 nm, t_1 = 10.4 min (*R*), t_2 = 11.5 min (*S*). Configuration was determined by analogy with that observed in the hydrogenations of **4e**.

N-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-(isopropyl)ethylamine (5s):^{S13b} Obtained with 33 % conv. Following procedure A. HPLC: Chiracel OD-H *n*-hexane-ⁱPrOH (99:1), flow 0.5 mL/min, $t_1 = 13.1 \text{ min } (R)$, $t_2 = 14.6 \text{ min } (S)$.

X-ray Diffraction

Suitable crystals for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained by slow diffusion of hexane into a solution of the complexes **1d** and **3j** in dichloromethane. In both cases diffraction data were recorded on a Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur Nova single crystal diffractometer, using Cu-Ka radiation ($\lambda = 1.5418$ Å). 909 images were collected at a 63 mm fixed crystal-detector distance, using the oscillation method, with 1° oscillation and variable exposure time per image (20–163) s (for **1d**) and 506 images were collected at a 62 mm fixed crystal-detector distance, using the oscillation method, with 1.3° oscillation and variable exposure time per image (42.5–240) s (for **3j**). Data collection strategy was calculated with the program CrysAlis Pro CCD.^{S18} Data reduction and cell refinement was performed with the program CrysAlis Pro RED.^{S18} An multi-scan absorption correction was applied using the SCALE3 ABSPACK algorithm as implemented in the program CrysAlis Pro RED.^{S18}

The software package WINGX^{S19} was used for space group determination, structure solution and refinement. For **1d** the structure was solved by direct methods using SIR92.^{S20} and for **3j** was solved by Patterson interpretation and phase expansion using DIRDIF.^{S21}

In complex **3j** the asymmetric unit consists of two molecules. Also, highly disordered solvent molecules were found in the crystal which were impossible to refine using conventional discrete-atom models. To resolve these issues, the contribution of solvent electron density was removed by the SQUEEZE/PLATON.^{S22}

Isotropic least-squares refinement on F^2 using SHELXL-2013^{S23} was performed. During the final stages of the refinements, all the positional parameters and the anisotropic temperature factors of all the non-H atoms were refined. The H atoms were geometrically located and their coordinates were refined riding on their parent atoms. The function minimized was $([\Sigma wFo^2 - Fc^2)/\Sigma w(Fo^2)]^{1/2}$, where $w = 1/[\sigma^2(Fo^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$ (for 1d a = 0.0545, b = 6.9723, for 3j a = 0.0671, b = 0.0) with $\sigma(Fo^2)$ from counting statistics and $P = (\max (Fo^2, 0) + 2Fc^2)/3$. Atomic scattering factors were taken from the International Tables for X-Ray Crystallography.^{S24} The crystallographic plots were made with PLATON.^{S21} CCDC 1558476 (1d) and CCDC 1558477 (3j) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

Table S1. Hydrogenation of imines 40-4n with catalyst precursor 1d ^a					
Ar R	H ₂	\rightarrow $Ar \xrightarrow{HN} R$			
4b-o	,	? = Me (5h-5 0) Et (5 n)			
	Ar' = Ph (5b-5d), 4-MeO-Ph (5e-5p)				
Entry	Cat.	Imine (Ar)	Conv ^b	% ee ^c	
1	1d	4b (4-F-Ph)	92	98 (<i>S</i>)	
2	1d	4c (4-Cl-Ph)	7	n. d.	
3	1d	4d (3-MeO-Ph)	91	96 (<i>S</i>)	
4	1d	4e (Ph)	98	99 (<i>S</i>)	
5	1d	4f (4-Br-Ph)	<5	n. d.	
6	1d	4i (4-Me-Ph)	67	98 (<i>S</i>)	
7	1d	4k (4-CF ₃ -Ph)	>99	98 (<i>S</i>)	
8	1d	4l (3-MeO-Ph)	>99	99 (<i>S</i>)	
9	1d	4m (3,4-(MeO) ₂ -Ph)	54	97 (<i>S</i>)	
10	1d	4n (2-naphthyl)	80	96 (<i>S</i>)	
11	1d	40 (1-naphthyl)	9	n. d.	
12	1d	4p (Ph)	29	n. d.	

c :....: rith ootolyzet **1** Ja Table S1 Ur 1 *.*• 1h 1

^a Conditions: 20 bar H₂, 60 °C, ⁱPrOH, S/C/B = 100/1/5, [S] = 0.15 M, using KO^tBu dissolved in ⁱPrOH as a base, reaction time 24 h. ^b Conversion was determined by ¹H NMR, isolated yields for selected reactions in brackets. ^c Enantiomeric excess analyzed by HPLC (n. d. = not determined), configuration in brackets.

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 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of **1h**



 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (101 MHz, $CD_{2}Cl_{2})$ of 1h



 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, $CD_{2}Cl_{2})$ of $\boldsymbol{1h}$



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of 1i



 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of 1i

S27







 $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, $CD_2Cl_2)$ of 1j



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of 1k



-78.538 70.363

-47.152

Valor

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10 Receiver Gain 18390 11 Relaxation 2.0000 Delay

12 Pulse Width

Pará

Title

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of 11

-166.022

-148,712 -148,712 -137,887 -137,584 -138,564 -138,565 -128,764 -128,408,408



 $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CD_2Cl_2)$ of 11



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of 1m



 $^{^{13}}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CD_{2}Cl_{2})$ of 1m



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) of **2h**



 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, $CD_{2}Cl_{2})$ of $\boldsymbol{2h}$

8.269 8.228 8.228 8.228 8.228 8.228 8.228 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7901 7.7865 7.7551 7.7552 7.7551 7.7552 7.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of **2i**



 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (101 MHz, $CD_{2}Cl_{2})$ of 2i



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of **2j**





 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, CDCl₃) of 2j



¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of **3i**



 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of **3i**



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) of **3j**



 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (121 MHz, $CD_{2}Cl_{2})$ of 3j







¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of (S)-N-phenyl-1-(m-methoxyphenyl)ethylamine (5d)





¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) of *N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-(*o*-methylphenyl)ethylamine (**5h**)





 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of *N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-(*o*-fluorophenyl)ethylamine (**5**j)



¹⁵⁵ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁴⁵ ¹⁴⁰ ¹³⁵ ¹³⁰ ¹²⁵ ¹²⁰ ¹¹⁵ ¹¹⁰ ¹⁰⁵ ¹⁰⁰ ⁹⁵ ⁹⁰ ⁸⁵ ⁸⁰ ⁷⁵ ⁷⁰ ⁶⁵ ⁶⁰ ⁵⁵ ⁵⁰ ⁴⁵ ⁴⁰ ³⁵ ³⁰ ²⁵ ²⁰ ¹⁵ ¹ ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of *(S)-N-(p-*Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenyl)-ethylamine (**5**k)



 $\begin{array}{c} \hline & 160 & 155 & 150 & 145 & 140 & 135 & 130 & 125 & 120 & 115 & 110 & 105 & 100 & 95 & 90 & 85 & 80 & 75 & 70 & 65 & 60 & 55 & 50 & 45 & 40 & 35 & 30 & 25 & 20 \\ \hline & 1^{3}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_{3}) \text{ of } (S)-N-(p-\text{methoxyphenyl})-1-(m-\text{methoxyphenyl})-ethylamine (5I) \\ \end{array}$



ethylamine (5m)







N-phenyl-1-phenylethylamine (5a)



S53



N-phenyl-1-(*p*-fluorophenyl)ethylamine (5b)



292.3

(S)-**5b**



N-phenyl-1-(*p*-chlorophenyl)ethylamine (5c)



13.097

2 14.339 3784799

440517

10.43

89.57

5c (79 % ee)



N-phenyl-1-(*m*-methoxyphenyl)ethylamine (5d)









N-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethylamine (5e)







N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-(o-methylphenyl)ethylamine (5h)







*N-(p-*Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*p*-methylphenyl)ethylamine (5i)

S59



N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-(o-fluorophenyl)ethylamine (5j)







(S)-5j



*N-(p-*Methoxyphenyl)-1-(*p*-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethylamine (5k)



N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-(m-methoxyphenyl)ethylamine (5l)







N-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-(*m*,*p*-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylamine (5m)



2 31.778 7033712

99.59

(S)-5m



N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-2-naphthylethylamine (5n)

 Peak Results

 RT
 Area
 % Area

 1
 23.241
 56344071
 50.15

 2
 28.303
 56010524
 49.85

rac-5n



 Peak Results

 RT
 Area
 % Area

 1
 24.388
 378406
 0.42

 2
 28.565
 90298100
 99.58

(S)-**5**n



N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-naphthylethylamine (50)







(S)-**50**

(S)-N-phenyl-1-phenylpropylamine (5p)



(*S*)-5p



N-(p-methoxyphenyl)-1-(isopropyl)ethylamine (5s)





Peak Results Area % Area RT 13.194 7627406 75.30 2 14.770 2502110 24.70

13.194

nm

250.00

(S)-5s (51 % ee)